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JAN - 8 2004

In re Application of: :
WOHLFAHRT *et al.* :
Serial No.: 10/065,125 :
Filed: September 19, 2002 :
Attorney Docket No.: 2001P18279US :

DECISION ON PETITION
TO WITHDRAW HOLDING
OF ABANDONMENT

This is a decision on the petition filed September 17, 2003, to withdraw the holding of abandonment in the above-identified application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.181. No fee is required.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application was held abandoned for failure to timely file a response to the Office action mailed on December 04, 2002. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on July 25, 2003.

Petitioner asserts that the Office action mailed on December 04, 2002, was not received. To support this assertion, petitioner provided a statement attesting that a search of the file jacket and docket records showed that the Office action was not received. A copy of the file docket where the Office action would have been entered was also included with the petition.

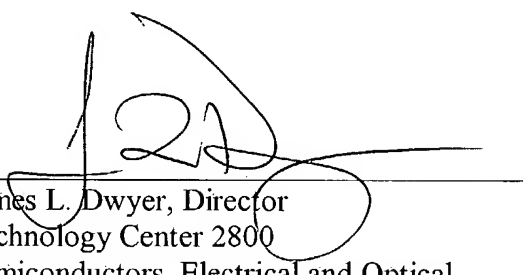
A review of the written record indicates no irregularity in the mailing of the Office action, and in the absence of any irregularity there is a strong presumption that the Office action was properly mailed to practitioner at the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the Office action was not in fact received. The showing required to establish the failure to receive an Office action must include a statement from the practitioner stating that the Office action was not received by the practitioner and attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office action was not received. A copy of the docket record where the non-received Office action would have been entered had it been received and docketed must be attached to and referenced in practitioner's statement. See "Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received" 1156 Official Gazette 53 (November 16, 1993) and M.P.E.P. § 711.03(c).

The petition, and the attachment, is sufficient to establish a showing of non-receipt of the Office action mailed December 04, 2002.

For the above stated reason, the petition is granted. The Notice of Abandonment is hereby vacated and the holding of abandonment withdrawn. The application is restored to pending status.

The application file is being forwarded to the Technology Center 2800 support staff for re-mailing the Office action. The shortened statutory period for response set therein will be reset to run from the date the Office action is re-mailed. Extensions of time are available under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Inquiries regarding this decision should be directed to Clayton E. LaBalle at (703) 308-4858.



James L. Dwyer, Director
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